

JORDAN TIMES

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U.S. pulls rights motion

GENEVA, March 7 (AFP) — The United States today called off its offensive against the Soviet Union at the United Nations Human Rights Commission. But prior to withdrawing a proposal to seek information from Soviet authorities on the fate of several well-known Soviet human rights activists, the U.S. vigorously defended the right to intervene on behalf of dissidents the world over without compromising detainees. The United States, said its delegate, agreed to withdraw the proposal after the commission scheduled three working sessions next week on the question of dissidents in the Soviet Union -- a topic never before taken up by the U.N. body.

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Relief aid flows into Romania

GENEVA, March 7 (R). — A big international relief operation cutting across political differences got under way today for victims of last Friday's earthquake in Romania.

One of the first cargoes of supplies left Viena, northern Italy, aboard a NATO military aircraft. A NATO spokesman said the consignment of anti-typhoid vaccines was donated by the Southern European Tactical Air Force (SETAF).

Romania is a Warsaw Pact country although its participation in the alliance generally regarded as nominal.

About 2,500 blankets and 700 bundles of clothing were also sent to communist Romania from the Greek Orthodox Church in Athens.

Other supplies, from medicines to baby foods and milk powder, left for Bucharest in response to Romania's appeals for help.

In Amman, Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, Saturday made a donation of JD 10,000 to Romania's ambassador for the victims of the earthquake. He heard from the ambassador details of the disaster and offered his heartfelt sympathy, as well as that of the Jordanian government and people, to the Romanian government and people.

In another meeting in Amman Monday, acting Foreign Minister Adnan Abu Odeh told the Romanian ambassador that the Jordanian government will provide medical assistance in kind to the Romanian people.

The largest consignment of aid has so far been promised from East Germany, a partner of Romania in the East European COMECON grouping. It is being sent tomorrow in the form of medical supplies, diagnostic equipment and sterilized fluids worth about \$10,000, a press conference was told in Tel Aviv. Romania is the only communist country to have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Other supplies on their way include surgical, x-ray and anaesthetic equipment, power generators and medicines, part of two million mark (\$400,000) package being prepared by West Germany.

Government offers of help have also flowed in from France, Greece and Britain, which are sending aid worth \$20,000.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Bucharest said Romania has appealed for a wide range of medical supplies, including mobile operating theatres, and a S. cargo plane was due there today.

The first foreign relief, from the Austrian Red Cross, arrived last night, two days after the earthquake struck.

Fifty people were also killed in Bulgaria in last Friday's earthquake news agency Tanjug reported today from Sofia. A government spokesman said the agency said officials feared the death toll could rise to more than 100 when rescue work is completed.

In Bucharest, rescue workers using mechanical excavators and their bare hands desperately dug through mountains of rubble yesterday and today seeking survivors.

Thousands are now feared have died across Romania. The last count, the known official death toll was over 1,000 and more than 5,000 people are listed as injured.

About 30,000 dwellings were destroyed across Romania. It also became clear today that the earthquake had dealt a crippling blow to the country's economy.

More than half of 70 industrial plants in the oil-centre of Iasi are known to have been damaged.



SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS — His Majesty King Hussein, with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Chief of the Royal Court Shaqif Abdul Shaarif sitting behind him, are seen during meetings of the Afro-Arab summit in Cairo Monday. Unidentified African participants are in the foreground.

Rabin meets Carter, other U.S. officials during Washington visit

WASHINGTON, March 7 (Agencies). — American President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met for 90 minutes here today seeking common ground on which Middle East peace negotiations could resume.

Welcoming Mr. Rabin, who arrived here Sunday on a three-day visit, Mr. Carter said Israel should be guaranteed "defensible borders that will give a sense of security for this young country in the future." Mr. Rabin stressed what he called Israel's will to work for Middle East peace and well being, "a will that is strengthened and encouraged by the special relationship that has long marked the ties between our two peoples."

The question of emigration of Soviet Jews was also due to be discussed. Greeting Mr. Rabin on the White House lawn today, Mr. Carter said 1977 "might very well bring a major step forward to an ultimate and permanent peace."

Israeli officials said this was the first time a U.S. president had spoken of Israel's need for "defensible borders."

Mr. Rabin leaves Washington Wednesday for visits to Florida and New York, before returning home next Saturday.

State Department officials were unable to say at once whether Mr. Carter's use of the phrase represented any change in U.S. Middle East policy.

Both Mr. Carter and Mr. Rabin may meet again before the Israeli premier leaves Wednesday evening.

Earlier today, Mr. Rabin lunched with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and met Defence Secretary Harold Brown, "and was attending a working banquet given by President Carter in the evening."

Mr. Rabin had said before leaving Tel Aviv Sunday that no important decisions would be made during his trip, but he was optimistic his first meeting with Mr. Carter would help

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Israeli troops bust up fresh demonstrations in Ramallah

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank, March 7 (R). — Israeli troops today hurled tear gas to break up a demonstration by hundreds of Arab youths in sympathy with a hunger strike by Palestinian guerrillas in Israeli jails.

Students carrying Palestinian flags and singing nationalist songs gathered in the town's central square and hurled stones at Israeli soldiers and local merchants who had to close their shops, military sources said.

Israeli troops broke up the demonstration and arrested dozens of demonstrators, the sources said. There were no casualties, but the windows of two passing Israeli cars were smashed.

Meanwhile, more than 100 prisoners serving sentences on "security" charges at Jenin prison on the West Bank joined the hunger strike started by 450 prisoners at Asqalon jail in protest against prison overcrowding and degrading conditions.

The Asqalon prisoners renewed their strike last week, saying prison authorities had not fulfilled a promise to improve conditions after they ended a five-week hunger strike in January, Arab sources said.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anba reported today that President Sarkis will seek to convene a restricted Arab summit in Cairo to discuss the situation in south Lebanon and financial aid to rebuild his war-torn country.

Quoting informed sources in Cairo, the paper said the meeting sought would be on the pattern of the restricted Riyadh summit conference on Lebanon held last October.

Al Anba also quoted Lebanese Interior Minister Salah Salaman as saying the problem of the south was an Arab responsibility.

In the voting, Prime Minister Bhutto and his Pakistan People's Party convincingly swept back to power. With counting well over half finished, the PPF had a virtually unassailable lead and political observers predicted it would win by a surprisingly wide margin.

Two people died today and 26 others were injured in Sukkar where police used tear gas and fired on crowds to clear the streets. Polling was halted, and the opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) called for a boycott of polling stations.

In Karachi about 100 people were injured after minor clashes erupted at women's pol-

Historic Afro-Arab summit opens in Cairo with calls to act on "common causes"

CAIRO, March 7 (Agencies). — Leaders of 60 Arab and African countries with a total population of over 400 million got together here today to lay the foundations for organised, long-term political and economic co-operation between the Arab World and black Africa.

The need for unity to achieve just solutions to the problems of Palestine and Southern Africa, and to bolster the Third World as a whole in its struggle for economic development and a fair international economic order, were the key themes of the inaugural session of the Afro-Arab summit.

The three-day conference, opened by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, late this morning, brings together the heads of state or their representatives of all members of the Arab League, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), with the sole exception of Malawi.

Saudi Arabia stunned the gathering by announcing it would grant \$1 billion for African economic development.

Right from the start of his welcoming statement, Mr. Sadat stressed the meaning of political solidarity by offering one million dollars as a gift to African liberation movements, and also said Egypt had made its arms stockpiles available to African freedom fighters.

Tunisian Premier Hedl Nouira, speaking as current President of the Arab League, said Arabs and Africans had experienced the same destiny of "colonial domination and racism" and were fighting the same struggle against economic underdevelopment.

Mauritius Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, addressing the audience of kings, presidents, emirs and premiers, in his capacity as host of last July's OAU summit, said the Palestinians must achieve their "legitimate rights" and pledged the support of the whole of

African for those who "fight for their freedom."

Israel and the "racist regimes" of Southern Africa came under sharp attack from all speakers at the nearly two-hour inaugural session in the crowded People's Hall.

President Sadat affirmed that Israel was "blocking the road to a just peace" and "rejects the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to establish their own independent state." He warned that "imperialist and racist forces" were poised to open new fronts in Southern Africa.

ensuring their respect of international law.

Mr. Ramgoolam issued a "solemn appeal" to the United States to bring about the liberation of "occupied Arab lands".

The heads of state were to consider three documents -- thrashed out and finalised yesterday by Afro-Arab foreign ministers -- when they went into closed session tonight.

At least 23 heads of state and six heads of government were present for the talks, held in a long oblong hall at the Arab Socialist Union building, beneath an orange and green symbol showing Africa and the Middle East in black.

His Majesty King Hussein will address the summit tomorrow morning. This evening's closed summit session lasted for 3 1/2 hours.

Prince Saud Al Faysal, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, announced that his country would allocate \$1 billion for economic development in Africa.

Prince Saud said that the bulk of the allocation would be channelled through the Saudi Development Fund and passed on to competent Arab and African bodies. The Saudi minister said the funds included two million out of \$5 million that Arab foreign ministers yesterday pledged to contribute to African liberation movements.

In a political statement to be adopted by the summit, Arab and African leaders affirm that the Middle East and Southern Africa will henceforth be considered as common "Afro-Arab causes".

However, the need for close economic cooperation and solidarity was also strongly emphasised at the opening session. Mr. Sadat, host of the unprecedented conference and leader of the country which forms the natural bridge between Africa and the Arab World, said the two communities of nations and the rest of the Third World must achieve control of their own natural resources and put an end to foreign exploitation.

William Eteki, Secretary-General of the OAU, said: "The negotiating power of the Third World as a whole depends upon Afro-Arab solidarity."

Commenting on plans for co-operation between the two sides in the economic and financial field, he said the time had come to "translate words into deeds, principles into programmes and programmes into concrete projects."

The economic declaration agreed upon yesterday by the foreign ministers called for "promoting the placement of Arab capital in African countries, whether in the form of direct investments, loans or deposits," as well as boosting the capital available to two continental banks based in Khartoum and Abidjan.

President Leopold Senghor of Senegal said today that laying down the foundations of real Afro-Arab economic cooperation could pave the way for tripartite cooperation with Western Europe.

He also told the summit that at first cooperation between the Arab World and Africa could take the form of preferential trade agreements and joint prospecting for natural resources.

He stressed the need for a "real" programme of Afro-Arab cooperation and emphasised the importance of regional projects and projects aimed at increasing the agricultural output of African countries.

Kaddoumi lauds Soviet ties, rejects recognition of Israel

KUWAIT, March 7 (R). — Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestine resistance movement's "foreign minister", in an interview published here yesterday, called for strengthening ties with the Soviet Union to face the United States which he said was still adopting a hostile attitude towards the Palestinians.

Mr. Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Political Department, told the daily newspaper Al Watan the United States continued supporting Israel against the Palestinians.

He accused the U.S. of "exercising pressure on Europe so that it does not adopt a stand in the interest of the Arab cause."

It was necessary to strengthen ties with the Soviet Union "with the aim of confronting America."

Mr. Kaddoumi said he believed the possibility of war exceeded prospects for peace, which he considered as nil this year.

Mr. Kaddoumi said that recognition of Israel was out of the question, and the Palestine National Council would not be discussing any amendment to the PLO charter. The council is due to convene in the Egyptian capital on March 12.

Mr. Kaddoumi's Afro-Arab foreign ministers' meeting in New York today, Mr. Kaddoumi, asked if the National Council would amend the part of its charter which denies recognition of Israel, said: "It is not a possibility. It is impossible. And we don't expect any discussions or proposals on this."

Mr. Kaddoumi also rejected an idea proposed by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, that the Palestinians should link up in some way with Jordan before a reconvened Geneva conference on Middle East peace.

"It is not possible before Geneva," he said. "It is not possible before the establishment of an independent (Palestinian) state."

"We are insisting on a separate delegation," he said. "And to attend at the outset of the Geneva conference, and then to participate in all of its works."

He said that the Palestinians would have to be flexible for the sake of Middle East peace and accept a mini-state initially.

"But this doesn't mean that we are giving up the rest of our rights, there are two (initial) phases to our return. The first phase to the 1967 lines, and the second the 1948 lines ... The third stage is the democratic state of Palestine. We are fighting for all three stages."

Asked if the Palestinians were willing to rely on political and diplomatic means to achieve this he replied: "Well, if they can be effective, we will do it. And we will wait. But if not, then we will resume our armed struggle."

Mr. Kaddoumi said he saw no sign of U.S. willingness to change its Middle East policy. "On the contrary, they provide arms and more aid to Israel. Talk, talk, talk. They talk of us but they give to Israel."

Intensive contacts pave way for Palestinian meet

DAMASCUS, March 7 (R). — Palestinian leaders are engaged in intensive behind the scenes contacts to try to reach agreement on the new high command of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) expected to emerge later this month.

The Palestine National Council, the movement's parliament in exile, is meeting in Cairo on Saturday and must name a new Executive Committee to run its affairs on a day-to-day basis.

Well informed sources said the contacts were concentrating on the speakership of the National Council and the membership of the executive, which is expected to be 15 strong. The last Executive Committee, formed in 1974, had 14 members.

Official PLO sources said the council would not modify the organisation's charter -- an Israeli demand -- nor recognise Israel.

The current Speaker of the National Council, Mr. Khaled Al Fahoum, said the dialogue with Jordan, begun late last month, was not now expected to resume until after the national council meeting. Earlier he had hoped to go to Amman again before Saturday's meeting.

Violence mars Pakistani elections

ISLAMABAD, March 7 (AFP). — Sporadic violence spilled over into voting in Pakistan's general election today, after marring a 42-day campaign in which at least seven people were killed. But the general situation, particularly in the countryside, was reported under control.

In the voting, Prime Minister Bhutto and his Pakistan People's Party convincingly swept back to power. With counting well over half finished, the PPF had a virtually unassailable lead and political observers predicted it would win by a surprisingly wide margin.

Two people died today and 26 others were injured in Sukkar where police used tear gas and fired on crowds to clear the streets. Polling was halted, and the opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) called for a boycott of polling stations.

In Karachi about 100 people were injured after minor clashes erupted at women's pol-

ling stations. The major incident came in the city's heavily populated Chakiwara District, where retail shops were set on fire, and unofficial sources said two people died.

Clashes were also reported from Hyderabad, where a member of Prime Minister Zulfikar All Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was seriously wounded by attackers as he went to vote.

Other less serious incidents were at Lahore, and Lyallpur in the Punjab. In the Islamabad area, the atmosphere was peaceful, turnout seemed heavy and observers said polling appeared free and honest.

About 30 million voters were to elect a 200-seat National Assembly for five years, and the main contest was between Mr. Bhutto's PPP and the opposition PNA in which nine individual parties are grouped.

The existence of a strong and at least temporary unified opposition to Mr. Bhutto was a new phenomenon. Only two months ago, when the election was called, nobody thought Mr. Bhutto was running any risk.

In the last assembly the opposition parties had less than

Smith forms war ministry

SALISBURY, March 7 (R). — Prime Minister Ian Smith today set up a new ministry of combined operations to direct the fight against intensified black nationalist guerrilla attacks. A government statement said the Transport and Power Minister in the white minority government, Mr. Roger Hawkins, 61, will hold the new portfolio. He will also be Deputy Chairman, under Mr. Smith himself, of a war council which takes the final decisions on strategy in the campaign against the guerrillas. Informed sources said the ministers of defence, law and order and internal affairs will be responsible on war matters to Mr. Hawkins. The sources also expect Mr. Smith to appoint a new supreme military commander soon.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Presents

THE LONDON SAXOPHONE QUARTET

AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL HALL,

Tuesday, 8th March, at 8:00 p.m.

and Thursday, 10th March, at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: JD 1

King Khaled has successful 2nd operation

RIYADH, March 7 (AFP). — King Khaled of Saudi Arabia underwent successful surgery of the thigh at a London clinic today, a royal spokesman announced.

The operation, said by the spokesman to be the second and last on the king's left thigh, followed an earlier one on Feb. 15.

"The operation went well and the state of the king's health is very satisfactory," the spokesman added.

Saxophones hit Amman scene

By Allan Martini
Special to the Jordan Times

Two concerts will be performed this week -- Tuesday and Thursday -- in the British Council to present to the Jordanian public a unique saxophone ensemble.

The London Saxophone Quartet, which has been performing professionally for seven years, has virtually pioneered a new field in music. With its relatively short history, the saxophone has managed to achieve ever newer musical circles, the most noteworthy today being jazz, of which the "sax" is certainly the backbone.

The saxophone quartet as a concept is very new. Following the pattern of the traditional ringed quartet, it combines four classes of brass instruments -- all saxophones -- from soprano to alto.

The London Saxophone Quartet is currently touring the Middle East. Their itinerary includes Algeria, Tunisia, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq where their music was well received. This is their first appearance in Amman.

The members were all active and experienced well before

the formation of the quartet as free-lance and orchestral performers. One of the members was associated with the bands of such greats as Tom Jones and Tony Bennett.

In their short time as a quartet they have made a tremendous mark on the music world. In order to build their repertoire, Paul Harvey devoted his time to the writing and transcribing of saxophone pieces. As a group they have also organised several recitals on the international level for the development of an entirely new and original repertoire.

They perform selections from a wide range of styles and periods. Their repertoire now includes 10th century pieces, classical, chamber music, jazz, avant-garde and several original compositions.

Their visit to Jordan is in cooperation with the Friends of Children's Theatre. Performances will begin at 8:00.

Most of the world's great music has been born in the heat of inspiration of those seeking new and better means of expressing themselves. The appearance of the London Saxophone Quartet provides us with a rare and momentous opportunity to view an inspired new movement in music.



The London Saxophone Quartet jazzes up Amman today.

British trade union team leaves Jordan

AMMAN (JNA). — A British trades union Congress delegation Monday left here for Cairo for a three-day official visit to Jordan during which they were received in audience by Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, and held talks with a number of officials. The delegation also visited some Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan.

The head of the delegation had before departure that delegation members had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with trade union activities in Jordan and with Jordan's viewpoint in regard to the Middle East crisis.

He said that the meetings and the visits they paid deepened

their belief in the justice of the Arab stand. He said the delegation would raise their voice at trade union meetings and in the British parliament in support of Arab demands.

The delegation issued a statement saying the visit constituted a step towards boosting relations between trade unions in both countries and boosting the chances for a peace based on right and justice, requiring complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The delegation expressed satisfaction over the progress Jordan has made in economic, social and development fields.

MARCH 25 OPENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

AMMAN. — The Higher Committee for King Hussein's Silver Jubilee decided at a meeting Sunday chaired by acting Prime Minister Dr. Al Majali that the prime minister will issue a statement on the evening of March 25 proclaiming the start of celebrations for the jubilee.

On the morning of March 26 the Higher Committee will present the jubilee flag to His Majesty the King at a public rally. The King will then hand the flag to a Jordanian boy and girl to raise it in the Raghdan Palace courtyard.

Jubilee flags will also fly over ministries and other government and public buildings until the end of the year.

The Mayor of Amman, Ma'an Abu Nuwwar, was appointed to supervise the largest of the celebrations, on August 11, at the Amman International Stadium.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, meets in Amman Monday with the Romanian Ambassador to Jordan to convey the sympathy of the Jordanian people to those who have suffered the disaster of the earthquake in Romania. (JNA photo).

2nd satellite station to be built in Jordan

AMMAN (Agencies). — International companies will soon be invited to bid for building a second satellite monitoring station in Jordan, the Communications Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said here Monday.

He told a press conference that tenders for the new station, expected to cost \$4.5 million, would be made later this month.

Jordan already has a Japanese-built earth satellite station near Baqa' refugee camp about 16 kms. northwest of Amman.

Built in 1971, it cost \$500,000. Mr. Al Rawabdeh also said that the Telecommunications Corporation is now adopting a policy that will ease the telephone communications crisis and rectify certain mistakes, pending a radical solution.

The minister of communications spoke about three mobile automatic exchanges -- each containing 1,000 numbers -- to be installed at Jabal Amman, Mabatia and Ramtha. They will become operational between May and September.

ITU head here discusses Arab telecomms. unit

AMMAN (JNA). — The Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Mohammed Meely, arrived in Amman by road from Damascus Monday on a two-day visit to Jordan. He is accompanied by Mr. Burgman, Chief of the union's technical services for Europe and the Middle East. During his stay, Mr. Meely will meet with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and hold talks with the ministers of communications and information on matters connected with Radio, Television and Telecommunications.

He said his visit to Jordan aims at promotion of cooperation between Jordan and the ITU in all fields. He also said that during his tour, which will cover a number of Arab states, he will discuss the possible establishment of a regional training centre in the Arab World, which would be equivalent to a technical university specialised in telecommunications affairs at all levels. It would aim to graduate engineers and technicians who would be able to operate the latest communications equipment.

The statement attacked Iraqi rulers, charging that "the main aim of imperialism and Zion-

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — Mr. Ghaleb Barakat, the acting Minister of Reconstruction and Development, decorated Mr. John Rennie, retiring UNRWA Commissioner General, with the Istiqal medal, first grade, bestowed upon him by Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, on the occasion of his retirement.

* AMMAN. — Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, Monday received at the Raghdan Palace the credentials of Salem Ibn Rashed Al Absal as Bahrain's first ambassador to Jordan. Acting Foreign Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Court Minister Amer Khammash were present at the ceremony. Prince Hassan also sent a cable of congratulations to Syrian President Hafez Assad on the occasion of the anniversary of the March 8 revolt in Syria.

* AMMAN. — The Foreign Ministry has received a cable from Jordan's embassy in Belgrade to the effect that all Jordanian students in Yugoslavia are safe and well after an earthquake hit the country Friday night. Jordan's embassy in Bucharest in a cable to the Foreign Ministry, has confirmed that all Jordanian students in Romania are safe.

* AMMAN. — Her Highness Princess Basma Monday paid a visit to charities in the Jarash and Ajloun districts. The princess stressed the need for voluntary efforts in social development programmes. Princess Basma also visited the girls' teachers training college and the Baptist hospital in Ajloun.

* AMMAN. — At a meeting chaired by acting Prime Minister Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday, the Cabinet approved an agreement whereby the British government will provide a £9 million loan for development projects.

* BUDAPEST. — Jordan's ambassador in Yugoslavia, Dr. Nasser Al Batayneh, has presented his credentials to the Hungarian president as non-resident ambassador to Hungary.

* AMMAN. — Director of the Department of Statistics Shuja' Al Assad Monday left here for Baghdad to take part in the meeting of Arab experts on educational statistics now being held in Baghdad under the supervision of the Arab Organisation for Education, Culture and Science.

* AMMAN. — On the eve of International Women's Day, which is observed Tuesday, a celebration was held at the Soviet Cultural Centre, when Mrs. Voronin, wife of the Soviet Ambassador in Amman spoke of the importance of this day and its role in fostering relations amongst the women of the world, and of their solidarity in trying to achieve peace and equality.

Khleifawi states to Al Ra'i Israel's delaying tactics endanger Geneva talks

Syria's Prime Minister Maj-Gen. Abdul Rahman Khleifawi charged that Israel was adopting delaying tactics to continue its occupation of Arab territories.

A policy of procrastination in order to continue its occupation of Arab territories. It also denies Palestinian rights," he stated in an interview published by Al Ra'i Monday.

He further stated that all the parties to the Middle East conflict were in agreement that the Geneva peace conference should resume before the end of the year.

"Facts have shown that Israel seizes every opportunity to adopt delaying tactics and

Maj-Gen. Khleifawi said such an attitude could create dangers that might threaten the success of the Geneva talks.

The Arab position was now clearer than ever and could hardly be rejected by other powers, he added.

Syrian Baathists mark revolution anniversary

DAMASCUS, March 7 (R). — Syria's ruling Baath Party said tonight that the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East was still remote and that Israel was receiving unlimited military and financial aid.

ism in Iraq is to keep that country, with its manpower and material resources, away from the confrontation with Zionism and imperialism."

On the recent summit meeting in Khartoum between Syria, Egypt and Sudan, he said Arab unity was the "ideal aim of our Arab nation. The policy of the Baath Party is to support any action leading to union."

"The creation of the joint political command (between Egypt, Syria and Sudan) is a big step on the road to a political, economic, cultural and social union."

On African-Arab relations Maj-Gen. Khleifawi said both the Arabs and Africans were fighting for political and economic liberation and against racism.

He said the African states understood the nature of the Arab struggle against Israel and took clear positions on the conflict.

On the situation in south Lebanon, the Syrian prime minister said the problem was a question for the Lebanese legal authorities to tackle.

Agriculture official visits experimental station

AMMAN (JNA). — The Minister of Agriculture, Salah Juma'a, Monday accompanied the Director General of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Dr. Mohammed Mubib Zaki, on a visit to the agricultural experimental station at Wadi Al Dileid. Dr. Zaki toured the station and was briefed on its services to farmers and its studies and research on soil, vegetables and gardening.

The station comprises some 450 dunams of salinity-flushed land planted with cereals and fruit trees. Dr. Zaki also visited a JD 2 million dairy project, which is being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture. It houses 413 Dutch cows, whose daily yield amounts to three tonnes of milk.

Mr. Juma'a and Dr. Zaki later visited a private farm in the area.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	571.0	577.0
U.S. dollar	332.0	334.0
German mark	139.4	139.8
French franc	66.8	67.1
Swiss franc	130.8	131.2
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.6	37.8
Saudi riyal	94.0	94.5
Lebanese pound	110.2	111.1
Syrian pound	82.1	82.5
Iraqi dinar	940.0	945.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,150.0	1,158.0
Egyptian pound	462.0	475.0
Libyan dinar	800.0	820.0
UAE dirham	84.8	85.8

What's Going On

A film entitled "Trotta"; 8:00 p.m., at the Goethe Institute, Jabal Amman.

Minister inspects Aqaba housing

AQABA (JNA). — The Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Ibrahim Ayoub, Monday inspected the Aqaba housing scheme which is now being constructed. It consists of 700 apartments and other units that can accommodate a total of some 1,500 labourers.

The project is expected to be completed early next year.

Mr. Ayoub, who was accompanied by his under secretary and the director general of the Housing Corporation, will make an inspection tour Tuesday to Wadi Rum, Gharradai, Bir Ma'abour, Kalmia and the Dissi area in the Ma'an governorate.

Government participates in 21 companies

AMMAN (JNA). — The government is presently participating in the capital of 21 industrial companies, which produce different kinds of industrial and food commodities, sources at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce revealed Monday.

The sources said that the government had adopted a policy of participating in the capital of national industrial companies in certain clear-cut cases: If a firm relies on local raw materials; if it is too big for the private sector to bear the cost of setting it up; and if its production is essential for all sectors of the population, such as petroleum, electricity, fertilisers, vegetable oil, bakeries and mining industries.

ANTOINE ABOUD

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Australia takes soft stand on Indonesian occupation of East Timor

On April 23, 1976 the U.N. Security Council adopted a 12-0 resolution calling on Indonesia to withdraw its forces from East Timor and repeating its demand for political self-determination of the territory's people. Only the U.S. and Japan abstained in the voting.

In November the same year, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution rejecting the claim that East Timor is a part of Indonesia. It called on the Suharto government to withdraw Indonesian troops from the territory.

The voting was 61-18, with 49 abstentions, including Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

While the Australian government continues to soft-pedal the issue, for fear of embarrassing the government, the resistance mounted by the Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor (Fretilin) has found strong support from three Asian communist nations -- China, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Should Australia treat the freedom struggle of the East Timorese as a non-issue? Following is an interview with Chris Santos, the Fretilin 'voice' in Australia.

By Maurice Perera

MELBOURNE, (Gemini) — The dark, languid eyes sparkle for a moment. "Yes, we'll win our struggle in East Timor, and I hope it won't be long," says Chris Santos. "Because it will be hard for us -- with all the reconstruction and suffering -- there are many things for us to do there."

And then the eyes sadden, the voice falters ... almost begging the world to take notice of the freedom struggle of the East Timorese, and do something about it.

Chris Santos is East Timor's Fretilin "representative" in Australia. He is 29, a "journalist by profession", but had seen much of the action in East Timor fighting the forces of the Democratic Union of Timor -- once coalition partners, but which Chris says represented the continuance of colonialism.

"Fretilin", he explains, "stands for the Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor. It is revolutionary in outlook, but the word revolutionary stands for the front's commitment to revolutionise the country's old colonial structure."

"It seeks to modify, transform and revolutionise the old structures which were inherited from 500 years of colonialism. But we are not terrorists."

Just over one year ago a Red Cross radio in Darwin picked up this frantic message from East Timor:

"The Indonesians have invaded ... their soldiers are in Dili. This is an appeal for international help. We appeal to the Australian people. Please help us ... please." The day -- Sunday, December 7, 1975. A flurry of activity followed. Re-

fugee and relief programmes get underway. But on policy matters, the Australian government vacillated.

Meanwhile, Indonesia hurled its military might on the ill-equipped East Timorese and soon had a firm grip on the island, declaring the eastern sector its 27th province.

The freedom struggle and the suffering of East Timorese, allegedly at the hands of Indonesian soldiers, failed to move the meo in power in Canberra. And Indonesia continues to ignore a United Nations resolution urging it to withdraw its forces from the territory and repeating its demand for political self-determination for the East Timorese.

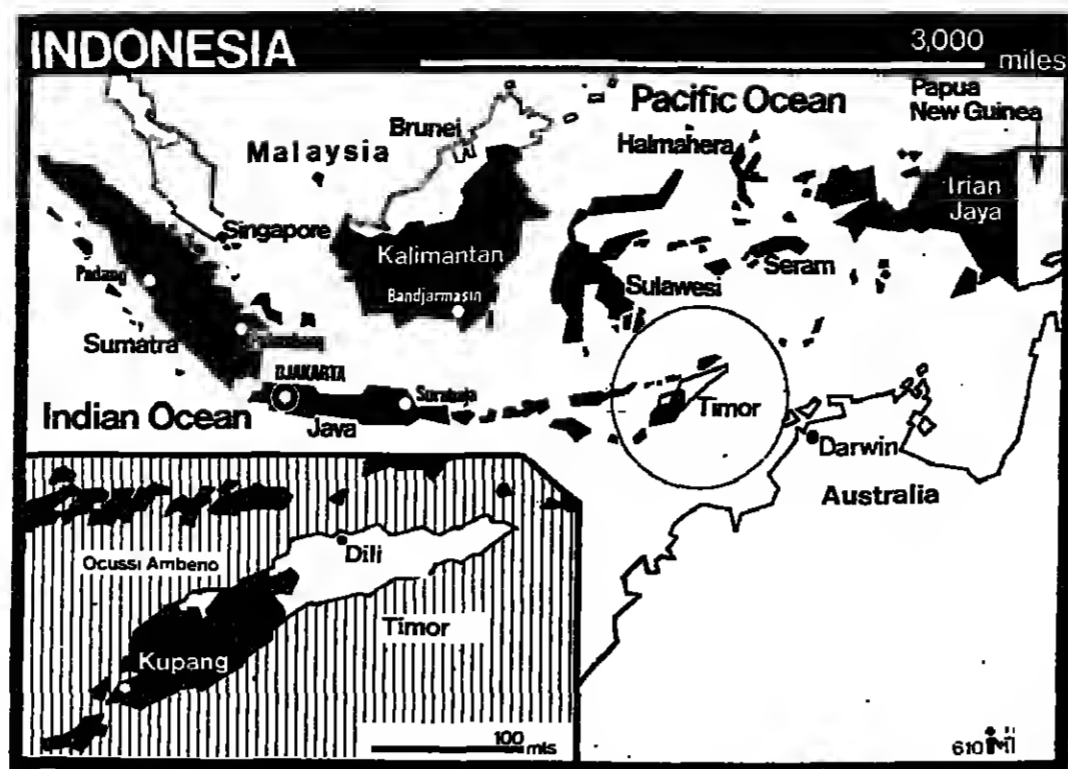
Now, some 60,000 deaths later (some estimates put it at more than 100,000) and a growing scandal over the deaths of five Australian oesmen in October 1975, Timor is again on the boil, following an Australian public servant's claim of new atrocities on the island.

James Hunn, a former Consul in East Timor, now a Research Director in Canberra, has revealed details of the execution of 59 villagers allegedly by Indonesian soldiers. He also spoke of how an Australian journalist was shot while speaking into a tape-recorder.

Gordon Bryant, a former Minister in Gough Whitlam's Labour government, has made similar charges. Bryant, who with Dunn, interviewed several Timorese refugees in Portugal says:

"There are serious charges to be answered by the Indonesians -- there is a prima facie case."

The Premier of the state of



Victoria, Dick Hamer, has joined the chorus of demands for a fresh inquiry into the killings, particularly the deaths of the five Australian newsmen in Balibo.

The newsmen -- Greg Shackleton, 29, Gary Cunningham, 27, Tony Stewart, 20, Malcolm Rennie, 28, and Brian Peters, 29 -- were killed while covering the Indonesian invasion of East Timor for Australian television.

Already the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Adam Malik, has described the oew allegations as old hat. Whether the Fraser government, which has already hacked down on its original tough stand on the Timor issue to prevent any embarrassment to the Indonesian government, would risk getting into a new wrangle remains to be seen.

The Australian government, according to Chris Santos, refuses to recognise the Fretilin.

"We have been trying to see Australian government officials, but they refuse us all the time," he says.

Santos, whose wife and two children were allowed to enter Australia as refugees, holds only a temporary visa that expires in April this year.

He claims he applied for a residence visa last year, but was only allowed a temporary visa. He says he will apply again in March before the current visa expires, but he is not particularly optimistic of being granted one.

"I am afraid politicians sometimes forget the humanitarian grounds involved in such issues. They may decide they don't want me here," he says.

"They see me as an enemy, trying to embarrass them, and that's not so. All I want to do is just talk to them and try win their friendship."

"We have not been asking Australia for any sort of political support. Our main request to them is to put pressure on the Indonesian government to

allow the International Red Cross to handle relief operations.

"But the relief aid continues to be handled by the Indonesian Red Cross -- and that goes to the Timorese in Indonesian-held areas," he says.

But Chris Santos is not giving up.

"I am not alone in my struggle ... many Australians are supporting us in our cause," he says. A recent poll conducted in Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock's electorate seems to prove his point.

The poll in Kooyong, an affluent suburb in the state of Victoria, by Dr. Peter Lynch, a committee member of the Kooyong Committee for Timor, found that more than half of the 2,380 people interviewed were opposed to the Indonesian takeover in East Timor. Dr. Lynch claimed that 55.6 per cent of those interviewed had signed a petition to Peacock.

The petition urges Mr. Peacock to:

-- Continue to ensure that Australia in no circumstances recognises the Indonesian forced annexation of East Timor;

-- Cease all military aid to Indonesia until such time as its forces are withdrawn from East Timor;

-- Take initiatives to ensure that the United Nations resolutions of East Timor are carried out.

The Fretilin office in Drummond St., Carlton, Victoria, is barely furnished. A table, a few chairs, a red telephone and numerous files stacked against the walls. The walls are bare, just a map of Timor and a poster of a Fretilin freedom fighter. No photographs of Lenin, Mao Tse Tung, Ho Chi Minh or even Che Guevara.

"No, I am not Marxist, I'm more an idealist," he says. "There are certain good things in all ideologies. I pick up what is good and try and follow those things," he says.

"Perhaps you can say I am close to Che Guevara, because he was also an idealist. I was only 15 when my brother and I first met Che in Paris. I was so impressed. He gave us a box of cigars and wanted us to open it for the revolution in Portugal. But the revolution came and went. Perhaps we'll

wait for the next revolution.

"Yes, I always feel close to Che. He was not a Cuban, but he fought for Cuba's liberation. I am fighting for the liberation of East Timor, but I was born in Portugal and I was a Portuguese soldier."

But Santos hastens to add: "No, I am not comparing myself with Che ... I just admire him, he's a fine man."

Cristovao Santos, that's his real name, was born in Southern Portugal on November 11, 1947. His father was a telephone technician. The youngest of three sons, Chris was educated in Portugal but missed university because "in Salazar's Portugal universities were only for the rich."

He became a journalist and began as a freelance sporting writer and later moved to the Lisbon daily Diaro De Lisbon. Early in 1969 he was called up for military service and was posted to Timor.

He moved freely with the East Timorese people and soon began to feel deeply for them. Some 500 years of colonial rule had reduced the East Timorese to a hopelessly desperate people. They needed help and guidance.

Chris decided to throw in his lot with them in their struggle for independence. So, when he finished his military service he decided to make East Timor his home. He joined the government printery in Dili where he rose to become its director.

Chris joined the Fretilin and was soon back on the battle lines, this time fighting the UDT. But on August 11, 1975, UDT forces staged a coup and the Fretilin retreated to the hills. Just nine days later, the Fretilin staged a counter coup and hitler fighting raged. On September 3, his Timorese wife and two children joined the stream of refugees bound for Australia. But Santos stayed on in Dili.

When the Fretilin finally defeated the UDT and peace came to East Timor, Santos left Dili to visit his family in Australia. He was expected back in Timor after Christmas. But that was not to be. Because the Indonesian invasion followed and Fretilin soldiers were once again on the run.

Chris then decided to remain in Melbourne, serving the Front as its lone voice in Australia. The fighting goes on some 3750 km northwest of Melbourne ... but Chris Santos, though not on the front line, is still very much with his people. "Time will only tell," he muses. "I only hope somebody does something soon."



East Timorese children being trained in the use of arms at a fretilin training camp.



Chris Santos : Fretilin's voice in Australia.

The ACP Sugar Group heads for tough negotiations with Europe

The 19 sugar-producing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific which are associated with the European Economic Community through the Lome Convention are about to embark on a tough fight in their 1977-78 negotiations. They are far from happy at the way the Convention is working. The political will to make it work may be there, but snags arise in the technical working out of that will.

stored and, in that case, a levy was applicable. However, can sugar producers shipped direct to refiners in Europe without the necessity of storage.

BARBADOS, (Gemini) — Sugar producing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific-known as the ACP group -- have reached complete unanimity on their approach to upcoming price negotiations with the European Economic Community for the year 1977-78.

Conference members appeared annoyed by the EEC suggestion of a storage levy and move to take the ACP's excess sugar -- known as quota sugar -- into account in fixing a new price. This would have the effect of depressing the over price and St. John criticised as "an illegitimate attempt to introduce new criteria for pricing."

After a ministerial conference here, there was also consensus on one point. Everyone was agreed that the negotiations this year would be, in the words of the conference chairman, Barbados' Trade Minister Bernard St. John, "a tough fight".

The EEC Commission in Brussels has recently prepared new proposals for arriving at the amount to be paid for ACP sugar, but these were also rejected at the Bridgetown meeting since, according to St. John, they were "inconsistent with the principles set out in the treaty."

The bargaining between the EEC and the ACP will be carried out under the Lome Convention, the treaty between the two groups signed in February 1975, and hailed at the time as a major advance in economic relationships between the developed and the developing world.

The ACP's basic stand on price is that it must be within the range of the price the EEC pays to its own beet farmers for their sugar. The new proposals would result in a price far short of that.

Under the terms of the Convention, guaranteed quotas were allotted to individual ACP countries which gave them collectively a market of just over 1.2 million metric tons in Europe annually.

King foresaw a "difficult an challenging year" for the ACP countries. They will be negotiating at a time when the world price of the commodity is low and when all indications are that production will again exceed demand.

The price is subject to annual review at bilateral negotiations and it is these negotiations that the ACP sugar producers are now preparing for.

"I don't think we should be confused by the level of the world price, however," he said. "The Lome Convention is the first positive mechanism the seeks to approach a new world economic order in a tangible way and its sugar protocol gives expression to that spirit."

Throughout the three days of deliberations here, there was a general air of suspicion about the EEC's attitude towards the Lome Convention. St. John, in his opening address, said the developing countries were now beginning to question the value of the Convention. He told delegates: "Attendances at conferences, nicely worded resolutions and signing of conventions will not

So where does the problem lie? King said the ACP group has always sensed a strong political will on the part of EEC members for in the sugar protocol of the Lome Convention, had never arisen in the initial negotiations and was not relevant to cane sugar. King said that beet sugar produced in the EEC had to be

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Zimbabwe front to be supplied with anti-aircraft weapons, says leader

LUSAKA, Zambia, March 7 (AFP). — Rhodesian Nationalist guerrillas grouped in the Zimbabwe People's Army (Zi-PA) have won the battle on the ground and now intend to obtain sophisticated anti-aircraft weapons "to fight the rebels in the air," Mr. Robert Mugabe, joint leader of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front said here today.

Mr. Mugabe, who shares power with Mr. Joshua Nkomo in the front, acted as ZIPA spokesman at the British-convoked Geneva talks on Rhodesia last week.

The Organisation of African Unity Ministerial Council last week.

Mr. Mugabe said the Patriotic Front would discuss with ZIPA commanders a new strategy which would require the use of anti-aircraft weapons against Rhodesian air superiority.

The former leader of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), now merged into the Patriotic Front, also said the front was reluctant to resume the Geneva talks.

The talks were a waste of time and irrelevant to the armed struggle, Mr. Mugabe said.

He went on: "I sincerely believe that there is no basis for the resumption of the Geneva conference. Any talks to be held must be aimed at the full transfer of political and military power to the black majority."

Mr. Mugabe added that Britain was not yet prepared to accept the front's proposals and had actually given the impression that it wanted to formulate proposals it could sell to Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith.

The nationalist leader said the Geneva conference had concentrated on irrelevant issues opposed to the armed struggle which the front supported.

Israeli negotiations to sell Kfir jets at "advanced stage", declares aeronautics official

TEL AVIV, March 7 (Agencies). — Negotiations for the sale of Israeli-built Kfir jet fighter-bombers to many Latin American and other countries have reached an "advanced stage", an aeronautics industry spokesman was quoted here today as saying.

The daily Maariv said the spokesman refused to identify the countries interested in buying the Kfir. The United States, which exports the engines to Israel, has vetoed sales to Ecuador.

Maariv said sales could run to several dozen aircraft.

About 500 workers demonstrated outside the U.S. Embassy here today, saying the veto was "a mortal blow to Israel's aeronautics industry" which would boost unemployment.

They handed in a letter to President Carter asking him to reconsider.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, now visiting the U.S., is expected to bring up the Kfir issue during his talks in Washington.

An industry spokesman meanwhile said that Kfir sales could net \$1.800 million, more than a third of which would go to the United States.

Israel reportedly backs Ethiopia against Eritreans

BEIRUT, March 7 (R). — An Eritrean guerrilla group spokesman said here today that Israel is stepping up military and technical aid to Ethiopia to help it crush the Eritrean rebellion.

Mr. Osman Sabbe of the Eritrean Liberation Front-People's Liberation Forces (ELF-LFF), told a news conference that although the U.S. had suspended military aid to Ethiopia, "Israel is stepping up its military and technical aid to the Ethiopian regime with the aim of maintaining its domination of the Eritrean coast and securing its interests in the Straits of Bab Al Mandab."

He said Israel was building a base on Fatma Island, about 50 kms. north of the Straits of

Bab Al Mandab, which links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

Mr. Sabbe said most of the Eritrean guerrillas' arms came from Arab states, chiefly from Syria and Iraq, which gave military support in 1976 and this year.

Mr. Sabbe said there was an international struggle for power in the Red Sea basin.

"Some of the Arab states are driven to support Ethiopia, which puts them in line with Israel," he said.

Libya has good relations with the Marxist rulers in Addis Ababa, and both countries have

been accused by President Nimeiri of interfering in Sudan, one of the Arabers of the Eritrean secretists.

Mr. Sabbe also said that Libya had asked Cuba for help in moving part of its forces from Angola to Ethiopia. He gave no details of the source of his information.

Mr. Sabbe said the Arab summit conference opened today in Cairo and Ethiopia to withdraw from the big power involved.

Spain legalises gambling

MADRID, March 7 (R). — Spain today legalised gambling casinos after more than 50 years, to boost tourism and the sagging economy. The step was expected to draw about \$500 million a year from abroad and help reduce the country's big balance of payments deficit.

A royal decree recognised that the ban imposed in 1824

on those games of chance than the state-run lottery, ball pools and a lottery blind had failed to stop the drain. The decree said that the state would retain its moral objective to lead to situations of tolerance, generalised clandestine gambling, with more real than those which it had to avert.

Habash in interview: Rejection Front will break with PLO if Palestinian mini-state is created

By Bernd Debusmann

CAIRO, March 7 (R). — The four commando organisations of the Palestinian Rejection Front will continue fighting for the destruction of Israel even if the Palestinians succeed in establishing a mini-state of their own.

This was made clear by guerrilla leader George Habash in an interview with Reuters as preparations for the long-delayed meeting here of the Palestine National Council (PNC) — the Palestinian parliament-in-exile — were drawing to an end.

At the meeting, due to open on March 12, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat and other moderates are expected to argue in favour of attending a reconvened Geneva Middle East peace conference and to press for the establishment of a Palestinian mini-state alongside Israel.

If such a decision were taken by the PNC, Dr. Habash said, his Popular Front for the Libe-

ration of Palestine (PFLP) and the three other Rejection Front groups would break away from the PLO and go it alone.

Asked if the PFLP contemplated a return to the hijackings and spectacular acts of violence it staged in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Dr. Habash said the organisation had firmly decided to stop such operations and had no intention of resuming them even if a mini-state were created.

"Why not go on fighting Israel from the new boundaries?" he asked.

But Dr. Habash predicted that other groups would resort to hijacking and violence outside the Middle East if the "doves" won the day in Cairo.

He declined to specify which organisations he thought would take to the gun.

The Iraq-backed rejection front led by the PFLP and embraces the smaller Arab Liberation Front, the PFLP General Command, and the Popular Struggle Front. All four are opposed to any peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict and insist on the establishment of a secular state in all of former mandate Palestine.

This concept which implies the disappearance of Israel, a state based on religion, is enshrined in the Palestine National Charter. Israel has said it would refuse to believe that opinion in the PLO had swung to moderation unless the charter were changed.

Dr. Habash implied that the bulk of Rejection Front fighters now remaining in Lebanon would be withdrawn to infiltrate into Israel and step up actions against the government there. "We have to be in Gaillee, in Gaza, in the West Bank, in south Lebanon, in the Golan. We have to infiltrate all our Palestinian fighters," Dr. Habash said.

"We want to put all our fighters into Palestine," he added. Dr. Habash disagreed with Israel's assessment of the PFLP as a "gang of terrorists and murderers."

"We believe that we are the real peace forces in this part of the world," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and his predecessor (Henry) Kissinger are "Aspirin tablets," he said.

"They are no real solution to the problem. A real solution will be a democratic Palestinian state where everybody lives in peace," he said.

Dr. Habash said he was confident that Iraq and other rejectionists if they broke from the PLO and continue to fight Israel against the will of the mainstream Palestinian leadership, would be able to give direct support, would be understood, he said.

Asked if he thought that sympathy could eventually flow into military, financial, and political backing, Dr. Habash said:

"I hope so. We have to struggle for this. I think that three countries will say 'right, as long as there are forces who want to continue to fight against Israel, we can be but with them.'"

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Britain doesn't want Amin at Commonwealth conference

LONDON, March 7 (AFP). — Britain plans to send a senior government official on a tour of Commonwealth countries in coming weeks to discuss possible ways of preventing Ugandan President Idi Amin coming here for the Commonwealth prime ministers' conference in June, an informed source said today.

The envoy's official job would be to discuss the conference's agenda with a view to eliminating procedural problems over questions such as Rhodesia, the source said.

Lord Thomson, formerly minister of commonwealth relations under Harold Wilson's

premiership might be chosen for the job, the source said. Lord Thomson is a former member of the European Commission.

Official sources would not confirm Lord Thomson's appointment but observers pointed to the good relations he has with Commonwealth leaders and his firm view on Rhodesia.

Britain's position regarding President Amin is extremely difficult, observers say, since any unilateral move by Britain to keep the Ugandan leader away from London could be expected to draw unfavourable reactions from the rest of the Commonwealth, especially from African members.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Concorde's landing rights at New York airport are now summit issue, says French minister

PARIS, March 7 (AFP). — The use of New York's Kennedy Airport by the Anglo-French supersonic Concorde has become a summit issue, the French Transport Secretary Marcel Cavaille said after discussion here today with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

He refused to speculate on French reaction if New York Port Authority rejects the 16-month trial period for Concorde which the U.S. federal government has recommended.

The authority is due to announce its decision on Thursday.

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France's decision on Thursday. The use of New York's Kennedy Airport is regarded as vital to Concorde's future.

Today's hour-long meeting was also attended by the mayor of Toulouse, the southern city where the French side of the joint aeronautical venture is based. Mayor Pierre Baudis is a vocal Concorde supporter. "It is inconceivable that the 16-month period be refused," it would create "a delicate situation" for employment in Toulouse he said.

Mr. Cavaille said the president recalled that he had twice telephoned President Jimmy Carter to discuss Concorde, and added "the problem is at the summit. All has been done so the highest American authorities are aware of the importance France attaches to the decision" (of the port authority).

Mr. Carter reminded a caller during his nationwide broadcast telephone-in Saturday that the port authority was independent and said the future of Concorde was "not in my control at all."

Air France at present runs a supersonic Paris-Rio de Janeiro service and British Airways serves the Gulf from London. Mr. Cavaille said the two countries "fought together" to win the landing rights in New York which could give the controversial Concorde project the kiss of life. Britain has refused to go on with production until more firm export orders come in.

Mr. Cavaille pointed out that

British Premier James Callaghan flies to Washington aboard Concorde tomorrow for talks with Mr. Carter.

In London today, a Foreign Office spokesman said "our views are the same as those of the French."

Foreign Secretary David Owen had discussed Mr. Callaghan's trip with the U.S. charge d'affaires and the spokesman said American officials were aware that Britain regarded that the port authority's decision as "major political and economic importance."

In Brussels, the EEC Commissioner for Industrial Affairs, Etienne Davignon, said "the Concorde situation is unpleasant."

But he said the EEC as such had made no representations to the U.S. authorities.

French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud said yesterday that French public opinion will not understand if New York's Port Authority refuses to grant the Concorde landing rights at Kennedy Airport.

"Public opinion would not understand why the Port Authority of New York did not conform to the federal decision and why the federal government was not able to have this decision implemented."

If Concorde was rebuffed at New York, M. de Guiringaud declared, France would seek to obtain landing rights through the American courts. Legal

means existed to obtain the rights, he said.

"We would go before the judicial authorities who, I hope, would take into account our arguments," he said.

M. de Guiringaud was asked whether the French government, by speaking out as it has done recently, had not overplayed its hand. He said he did not believe this had happened.

"It was important to make the responsible authority understand that the arguments of the environmentalists have not managed to convince French public opinion," M. de Guiringaud declared.

He said he was astonished that attempts were being made to bar Concorde because of the noise made by the aircraft. One thousand aircraft landed daily at Kennedy Airport, he said, four additional landings would change nothing."

Asked whether France's decision in January to free Palestinian commando leader Abu Dawud influenced the question of Concorde's landing rights, the French foreign minister said it was important not to exaggerate the impact of the Abu Dawud affair, which touched off world-wide protests.

The question of Concorde's landing rights had been discussed for a long time, he noted. "It is not impossible that some persons were influenced by the Abu Dawud affair. But this is not decisive," he concluded.

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Record oil output expected this year, U.S. journal says

TULSA, Oklahoma, March 7 (AFP). — World oil output will probably reach a new record level this year, the magazine Oil and Gas Journal said here.

Production last year rose 7.9 per cent to a new high of 57,300,000 barrels a day, it noted.

Non-Communist output should this year increase 4 or 5 per cent, the magazine said, quoting industry officials here.

This rise would mainly stem from increased extraction by

members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), as well as from the North Sea and Alaska.

The Soviet Union would doubtless maintain its position as the world's leading oil producer, it said, recalling that the U.S. last year dropped back to third position with Saudi Arabia in second place.

Production by Middle East countries was 48 per cent of the non-Communist total.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON, March 7 (AFP). — Imports by industrial nations rose 15 per cent last year and exports 11 per cent, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported. Their imports came to \$630,340 million and their exports were \$598,489 million. Largest increases in imports were recorded by the United States, West Germany, France, Japan and Canada. The IMF gave no figures for oil countries' imports but it said their exports were up 20 per cent to \$130,700 million. Countries recording the best improvements were Saudi Arabia and Iran. The fund also reported that world monetary reserves rose nearly \$28,000 million last year, account being taken of the fund's 128 members plus Switzerland. The new total at the end of the year was 218,848 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs). Reserves of industrial countries rose 9,970 million SDRs to reach 113,482 million. Those of developing countries went up 8,000 million SDRs to 34,525 million. The increase by the oil countries was 7,283 million SDRs to a new figure of 55,528 million. The IMF noted that industrial countries now have only half the total reserves as against two-thirds at the start of this decade.

ABU DHABI, March 7 (R). — Abu Dhabi International Airport will be open for 24 hours a day from March 31, it was announced here today. Since January, the airport has been closed daily for seven hours from midday for repairs to the runway and expansion work. Nineteen international airlines use Abu Dhabi airport.

BRUSSELS, March 7 (AFP). — Sweden and the European Economic Community (EEC) have concluded a long-term "framework agreement" on fishing, it was announced here today. The agreement, concluded last Friday should allow balanced fishing by Sweden and the EEC in zones of mutual interest, the announcement said.

Of 9 million calls Carter answers 42 questions in White House phone-in

WASHINGTON, March 7 (R). — President Carter sat in the White House for two hours Saturday and spoke with Americans around the country who phoned in questions, praise and criticism.

Sitting in an easy chair in front of the fireplace in the Oval Office, the president took 42 calls in the first-ever radio question-and-answer session held by a president.

The callers asked about Uganda, Cuba, coup d'etat living in sin, the high price of coffee, karate, the Concorde supersonic airliner and a score of other things on their minds.

He was relaxed throughout, speaking easily and laughing as he talked to those lucky enough to get through on a special 20-line telephone bank direct to the executive mansion.

The president, who sipped hot tea from time to time and advised Americans to drink less coffee, did at the end of the programme broadcast over the CBS radio network he had enjoyed the experience and would like to do it again.

He took a dig at White House reporters, watching on closed-circuit television in the press room, saying the questions were more interesting and challenging than they put to him at news conferences.

The programme, called "Ask President Carter", produced no new revelations of administration policy and turned mainly into a vehicle for Americans to discuss their problems, some of them personal, with him.

But Mr. Carter spoke of a telephone call on Friday from French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing about landing rights for the Anglo-French Concorde airliner, his willingness to open talks with Cuba on normalising relations, and the safety of Americans in Uganda.

Many callers reached the White House on the special toll-free line, but only 42 managed to speak to Mr. Carter. Veteran CBS broadcaster Walter Cronkite, who acted as moderator and sat near the president, asked five of his own questions.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company said it was

estimated over nine million attempts were made to phone the president, but some callers obviously dialled more than once.

Near the Oval Office was a CBS producer with his finger poised over a silver button ready to delete any obscenity or rudeness. For that reason, the transmission ran seven seconds behind the actual conversations.

Every caller was polite and extremely friendly, and no one had to be cut off.

The president was criticised by three callers who objected to his pardon for draft dodgers during the Vietnam war, but many others praised him for his performance in the White House and wished him luck.

One man complained his home telephone had almost the same number as that for the presidential phone-in and said he had been receiving calls for six o'clock in the morning, eight hours before the president's show began.

The first question dealt with Uganda and gave Mr. Carter an opportunity to explain how he defused the crisis over President Idi Amin's now-cancelled order barring Americans from leaving his country.

Mr. Carter, who said he knew about the "unpredictability" of Mr. Idi Amin" declared that he dealt quietly with the Ugandan leader and was aided by other governments.

Asked if he would like to fly in a space shuttle he said, "not me", because at 52 he was too old. But he thought his nine-year-old daughter Amy would

make a good space pilot even a good president.

He said he hoped to take trip on a nuclear submarine with his navy mentor, Admiral Hyman G. Rickover.

To a question concerning the possible abuse of taxpayers' money, he explained that two of his sons and five wives were living at the White House at his expense.

"We're not mooching off American taxpayers," he said. The president told another caller he was in favour of karate, but noted he had broken his right collar bone while training in karate during service in the navy.

The final question came from an 11-year-old who wanted to know why Mr. Carter's daughter, Amy, was going to a school rather than a private school.

The president replied that had a strong commitment to state school system and it had the Washington schools everyone to know the president's daughter was attending of them.

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